

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a cast-coated paper comprising the steps of applying a coating color comprising a pigment and an adhesive on one side of a base paper, and pressing/drying the coated layer in a wet state against a mirror surface of a casting drum, wherein said process further comprises the step of adding moisture to the coated paper by simultaneously maintaining both sides of the cast-coated paper ~~in~~ in ~~an~~ air conditioned at 20°C to 80°C, 50 to 95% RH for 20 seconds or more after pressing/drying the coated layer against a casting drum and before reeling.

2. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hydration of the cast-coated paper is carried out by blowing the conditioned air onto the cast-coated surface and the opposite surface.

3. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein wrinkles are prevented by using an expander roll during the hydration of the cast-coated paper by blowing conditioned air.

4. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said process further comprises the step of applying water or an aqueous solution or an aqueous dispersion of a pigment or the like onto the opposite surface to the cast-coated surface and drying it immediately after pressing/drying the coated layer against a casting drum and before maintaining the coated paper in the conditioned air.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper comprising (1) a coater head for applying a coating color comprising a pigment and an adhesive on one side

of a base paper, (2) a casting drum for pressing/drying the coated layer in a wet state against a casting drum mirror surface, and (3) a conditioned chamber having an inlet and an outlet for a web of cast-coated paper in this order, wherein said chamber has a plurality of air nozzles for blowing air onto both sides of the web region, which sides are exposed to an atmosphere and wherein said chamber is connected to a blower for sending conditioned air into said chamber and has a conditioned air vent, whereby said chamber is conditioned at 20°C - 80°C, 50 - 95% RH and both sides of said web is maintained in said chamber for 20 seconds or more.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 6 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an expander roll for preventing wrinkles is provided in said conditioned chamber.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 6, comprising a water applicator for applying water or an aqueous solution or an aqueous dispersion of a pigment or the like onto the opposite surface to the cast-coated surface after said casting drum and before said conditioned chamber.